

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 2, 2004

The Honorable Ben Nighthorse Campbell
Chairman
Committee on Indian Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Indian Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Campbell and Vice Chairman Inouye:

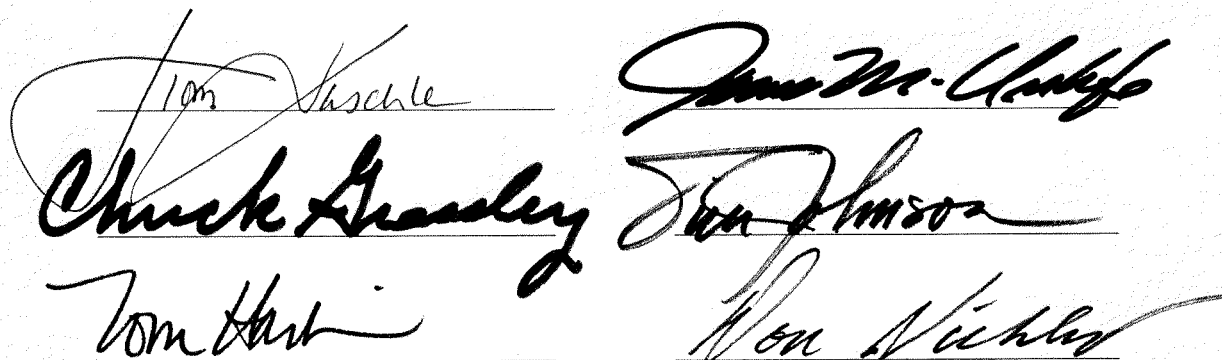
As you know, Congress and the President have joined in honoring the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II with Congressional Gold and Silver Medals. Since that event, more and more evidence has confirmed what many of us already knew – that other tribes served as Code Talkers for the U.S. armed forces, going back as far as World War I. We are now concerned that the service of Code Talkers from other tribes – including the Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota tribes of the Great Sioux Nation, as well as members of the Choctaw, Comanche, Meskwaki, and the other tribes – has not been properly documented and honored.

We write to request that the Committee convene a hearing on the Code Talkers for several purposes:

- To compile an evidentiary record that is now widely dispersed, ranging from declassified U.S. security documents to newly published books;
- To help identify all individuals who served as Code Talkers, as well as their tribal affiliations; and
- To consider the most appropriate means of honoring these outstanding patriots.

We ask that the Committee hold this hearing as soon as possible, preferably before the August recess. As Native American troops continue to serve their country in places such as Iraq and Afghanistan, it is vital that we fully recognize all those who served as Code Talkers. The Committee can play an important role in this effort.

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Singer in Senator Daschle's office at 224-0055. Thank you for your consideration of this request.


Tom Daschle
Chuck Grassley
Tom Harkin
Jon Kyl
Tom Latham
Ron Nichols